

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

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R 280827Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: UNEXCEPTIONAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF 1948 COMMUNIST
TAKEOVER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. PERHAPS TO HIGHLIGHT POINT THAT THE KSC HAS THE
WORKERS' INTEREST AT HEART, THE TWO MAJOR RALLIES ON
FEBRUARY 25 MARKING THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER HERE IN
1948 FEATURED ROH CHAIRMAN KAREL HOFFMANN IN PRAGUE,
AND HIS DEPUTY, SLOVAK ROH CHAIRMAN LADISLAV ABRAHAM,
IN BRATISLAVA AS MAIN SPEAKERS. SPEECHES WERE
UNORIGINAL AND UNEXCITING, EMPHASIZING THAT KSC
ACTED DECISIVELY AND IN BEST INTERESTS OF WORKERS
AND NATION BY TAKING CONTROL TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO.
PREDICTABLE HOMAGE WAS PAID TO USSR, TO USSR DESIRES
FOR RESOLVING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND THE

NEED FOR CONCERTED EFFORT IN THIS LAST YEAR OF
CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2. TELEVISED PRAGUE RALLY WAS HELD INDOORS AT
JULIS FUCIK SPORT HALL, BILLED AS "TRADITIONAL
WORKERS MANIFESTATION". TRADITIONAL VENUE, OLD
TOWN SQUARE, WHERE GOTTWALD ADDRESSED THE THROUNGS
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ON FEBRUARY 25, 1948, WAS NOT USED THIS YEAR.

IN ADDITION, PUBLIC ACCESS TO GATHERING WAS
SUPPLANTED BY INVITATION-ONLY FORMAT FOR ENTRY
INTO HALL. POSSIBLE REASON FOR CHANGE OF VENUE IS RECENTLY-
BEGUN REFURBISHING OF OLD TOWN FACADES. USE OF
INVITATION COULD REFLECT KSC DESIRE TO INSURE THAT
A GOOD TURNOUT IMPRESSED TV VIEWERS NATIONWIDE.
SHERER

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Message Attributes

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